<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An online shopping method executed in a system in which a server manages a status of use of at least one consumable used ~~upon printing~~ in a printing device, said method comprising:

receiving<u>, by the server,</u> the status of use of the at least one consumable used in the printing device via a communication line ~~by the server~~;

calculating<u>, by the server,</u> a service point according to the received status of use of the at least one consumable;

<u>the server</u> causing a storage unit to record<u>, for each of a plurality of consumable traders,</u> information on a customer's purchase of merchandise provided by ~~a consumable trader~~ <u>one of the plurality of consumable traders</u>, the purchase being based on the calculated service point; and

deciding a compensation to ~~the~~ <u>each of the plurality of</u> consumable ~~trader~~ <u>traders</u> based on the information recorded in the storage unit<u>, the information being based on the calculated service point</u>.

21. to 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 20, further comprising receiving compensation request information, wherein said deciding step comprises verifying<u>, for each of the plurality of consumable traders,</u> authentication of the

received compensation request information based on the received compensation request information and the service point calculated in said calculating step.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the status of use of the at least one consumable includes a consumption amount of the consumable.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the purchase includes a price discount, and the compensation includes a refund or an incentive.

28. (Currently Amended) An online shopping system in which a server manages a status of use of at least one consumable used ~~upon printing~~ in a printing device, the server comprising:

a receiving unit that receives the status of use of the at least one consumable used in the printing device via a communication line;

a calculating unit that calculates a service point according to the received status of use of the at least one consumable;

a storage unit that records, <u>for each of a plurality of consumable traders,</u> information on a customer's purchase of merchandise provided by ~~a consumable trader~~ <u>one of the plurality of consumable traders</u>, the purchase being based on the calculated service point; and

a deciding unit that decides a compensation to ~~the~~ <u>each of the plurality of</u> consumable ~~trader~~ <u>traders</u> based on the information recorded in the storage unit<u>, the information being based on the calculated service point</u>.

29. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 28, wherein the server further comprises a reception unit that receives compensation request information,

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wherein said deciding unit comprises a verifying unit that verifies, for each of the plurality of consumable traders, authentication of the received compensation request information based on the received compensation request information and the service point calculated by said calculating unit.

30. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 28, wherein the status of use of the at least one consumable includes a consumption amount of the consumable.

31. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 28, wherein the purchase includes a price discount, and the compensation includes a refund or an incentive.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable program stored on a computer-readable medium, the program for an online shopping method executed in a system in which a server manages a status of use of at least one consumable used upon printing in a printing device, said program comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the server, the status of use of the at least one consumable used in the printing device via a communication line;

calculating, by the server, a service point according to the received status of use of the at least one consumable;

the server causing a storage unit to record, for each of a plurality of consumable traders, information on a customer's purchase of merchandise provided by a consumable trader one of the plurality of consumable traders, the purchase being based on the calculated service point; and

deciding, by the server, a compensation to the each of the plurality of consumable trader traders based on the information recorded in the storage unit, the information being based on the calculated service point.

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33. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 32, further comprising receiving compensation request information, wherein said deciding step comprises verifying, for each of the plurality of consumable traders, authentication of the received compensation request information based on the received compensation request information and the service point calculated in said calculating step.

34. (Previously Presented) A program according to Claim 32, wherein the status of use of the at least one consumable includes a consumption amount of the consumable.

35. (Previously Presented) A program according to Claim 32, wherein the purchase includes a price discount, and the compensation includes a refund or an incentive.